

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP THE TOWNSHIP UPDATE

Bedford Township • Temperance, Michigan 48182 • Volume XIV • Issue III • FALL 2013

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We're on the Web WWW.BEDFORDMI.ORG



To access the complete Bedford Township Website from your Smart Phone download a QR code reader by taking a photo of the above code.

OR VISIT US AT THE:

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP HALL

8100 Jackman Road • P. O. Box H Temperance, Michigan 48182

PHONE: (734) 847-6791 Fax: (734) 847-7809

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Greg W. Stewart Supervisor
Trudy L. Hershberger Clerk
Paul R. Francis Treasurer
Larry O'Dell Trustee
Paul Pirrone Trustee
Rick Steiner Trustee
Nancy Tienvieri Trustee
Dennis Kolar Building Inspector
Chris Renius Assessor

OFFICE HOURS: 8 AM to 5 PM Monday-Friday

TOWNSHIP OFFICES WILL BE CLOSED FOR THE FOLLOWING HOLIDAYS

New Year's Day
Martin Luther King's Birthday
President's Day
Good Friday (afternoon)
Memorial Day
Independence Day
Labor Day
Veteran's Day
Thanksgiving Day
Friday following Thanksgiving
Christmas Eve
Christmas Day
New Year's Eve

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Treasurer's Department News

By: Paul R. Francis, Bedford Township Treasurer



DON'T FORGET! 2013 SUMMER TAX BILLS

The Treasurer's Department has been very busy collecting the 2013 Summer tax bills. As you are probably aware, the 2013 Summer tax bills are due and payable on or before September 14, 2013 (September 16th due to the 14th falling on the weekend) without interest being assessed. On September 17 a 1% interest charge must be added to your unpaid tax bill, and an additional 1% must be added on the first of every month thereafter until the tax bill is fully paid.

Taxes may be paid by cash or check payable to the Bedford Township Treasurer, by mail, by using our convenient drive-up window, drop box, or service counter inside the Bedford Township Government Center, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, MI 48182. In addition, we are pleased to announce that debit card and credit card payments are accepted at our drive-up window, our inside service counter, or online, using our township website (www.bedfordmi.org). Electronic check payments can only be made online by using our township website. Convenience (user) fees will be charged for all debit card, credit card and electronic check transactions. Also for your convenience, taxes may be paid at any branch of Monroe Bank & Trust, Fifth Third Bank (Lambertville Branch), and First Merit Bank (formerly Citizens Bank, Temperance Branch). If you cannot pay your entire tax bill in full by the September 14 due date, we will accept partial payments, but must charge interest and penalties on the unpaid balance. Partial payments are accepted through February 28, 2014, after which your remaining unpaid balance becomes delinquent and payable to the Monroe County Treasurer.

For those who may wish to have your summer and/or winter tax bills automatically deducted from your checking or savings accounts, you should fill out the "Direct Debit Authorization Agreement" available on the township website (www.bedfordmi.org, located under forms and documents/Treasurer's Department), or available at our service counter, inside the Government Center. Use of this automatic payment authorization is especially helpful for those who travel during the winter months, to ensure your taxes are timely paid.

SPECIAL NOTE: Senior Citizens (age 62 and over), veterans, and persons with total and permanent disabilities may qualify for deferment of their 2013 Summer taxes if their household monetary resources (taxable and non-taxable income) are \$40,000 or less. The summer tax deferment application form must be filled out every year and filed with the Township Treasurer before September 14. If you qualify, payment of your summer taxes may be deferred until February 14, 2014 without any penalty or interest. Please call the Bedford Township Treasurer's Office at (734) 847-6791-6671, ext. 7342 for the required form and/or information regarding the deferment process. We would be happy to assist you in any way we can. ■

Township Directory

Many people calling the township are finding that they reach a "menu" instead of the telephone receptionist. This is sometimes confusing, so in an effort to help you reach the correct person or department a list of names, titles, extension numbers and the department they work in is listed below. To reach Township offices and staff please call:

734.847.6791

and then the extension shown below.

SUPERVISOR'S DEPARTMENT CLERK'S DEPARTMENT 7323 TREASURER'S DEPARTMENT......7342 FINANCE DEPARTMENT PLANNING/ZONING DEPARTMENT 7331 BUILDING DEPARTMENT 7330 Linda Willing....... Administrative Assistant (Part-Time) . 7330 ASSESSING DEPARTMENT 7353 ORDINANCE DEPARTMENT Dave Meyer......Supervisor.......7350 TRUSTEE OFFICE 7344 SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT Lieutenant......7314 Detective......7315 Deputy......7318 Deputy.......7319

DOOR-TO-DOOR SOLICITORS

By Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

Warm weather is here and door-to-door solicitors and peddlers are out and about trying to sell their products.

Bedford Township has an ordinance, No. 78, which regulates door-to door solicitors or peddlers, and requires all persons, firms, corporations or other entities (with the exception of Boy/Girl



Scout troops, school organizations, religious groups, & political parties or candidates) to apply for a license at the township hall before they can solicit or peddle.

So, when solicitors or peddlers knock on your door, the first thing to do is ask "Do you have a Bedford Township permit to solicit?" If you get any answer other than "Yes", and they can not show the permit to you (it's yellow in color, listing their name, item being solicited, permit dates, and signed by myself or one of my assistants), then they are soliciting illegally.

If you can, get as much information as possible about their company (ask for a business card) then call the Bedford Township Hall at 734.224.7323, during weekday business hours (8 to 5 pm), or the Monroe County Sheriff's Office non-emergency phone number 734.243.7070 if it's after business hours, to report them.

The only way we can control or stop these unlicensed solicitors is to ticket and fine them, which will make these persons/companies realize they do not have the right to come into our township and bother our residents. By requiring a license, we can also control the times during which they can solicit, as well as make sure they are a legal business entity.

Let's work together to try to make our streets and neighborhoods as safe as possible for everyone.

Recycling Opportunity Reminder

By Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

Just a reminder that a Household Hazardous Waste Collection and Secure Document Shred Event will be held at Bedford Township Hall, 8100 Jackman Road, Temperance, on Saturday, September 28, 2013 from 8:00 am until Noon.

For further information, please contact Jamie Dean, Monroe County Solid Waste Coordinator at 734.240.7909 or via email at jamie_dean@monroemi.org.





The Clerk's Corner

By: Trudy L. Hershberger Bedford Township Clerk

Duties and Responsibilities of Township Officials

Periodically I "re-run" newsletter articles, both to refresh resident's memories regarding the issue, and also to inform new residents about township government.

To start with, Bedford Township, because of its size, has four elected trustees. In addition, we also have an elected supervisor, treasurer and clerk, all of which comprise the Bedford Township Board. Each has different duties and statutory requirements under State law, and listed below is a short synopsis of each.

DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP CLERK

There are thirteen statutory duties. The clerk is required to:

- Maintain custody of all township records
- Maintain the general ledger
- Prepare warrants for township checks
- Record and maintain township meeting minutes
- Keep the township Book of Oaths
- Be responsible for special meeting notices
- Publish board meeting minutes
- · Keep voter registration file and conduct elections
- Keep the township ordinance book
- Prepare financial statements
- Deliver tax certificates to supervisor and county clerk
- Appoint a deputy (required)
- Post surety bonds

DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP SUPERVISOR

There are nine Statutory Duties. The supervisor is required to:

- Moderate board meetings
- Be chief assessing officer (if certified)
- Be secretary to board of review
- Be the townships legal agent
- Maintain records of supervisor's office
- Be responsible for tax allocation board budget
- Develop township budget
- Appoint some commission members
- Call special meetings

DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP TREASURER

There are ten statutory duties. The treasurer is required to:

- Collect real and personal property taxes
- Keep an account of township receipts (revenues) and expenditures
- Issue Township checks
- Deposit township revenues in approved depositories
- Invest township funds in approved investment vehicles
- Collect delinquent personal property tax
- Be responsible for jeopardy assessments in collecting property tax
- Collect mobile home specific tax
- Appoint a deputy (required)
- · Post a surety bond

DUTIES OF TOWNSHIP TRUSTEE'S

There are three Statutory Duties. They are:

- Township legislators and required to vote on all issues
- Responsible for Township's fiduciary health (responsible for the management of the affairs of the township)
- Additional duties and responsibilities by township board action.

TOWNSHIP BOARD FUNCTIONS

 Township officials "MAY" have additional responsibilities beyond those specified by statute, however those responsibilities "MUST" still be authorized by statute.

In short, the three full time elected officials (supervisor, clerk & treasurer) are responsible for the day to day running of local government, with the rest of the board (trustees) charged with financial and policy making responsibilities.

It is my hope that this information will help the residents of Bedford understand better the duties and responsibilities of local government officials. If you should have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact me at my office, 734-224-7323. ■

Bedford Park Board News

By: John Mohr, Connie Velliquette, Garnet Francis, Sally Dunn & Joan Schockman

Several months ago, the Bedford Township Park Board announced we had received a grant from the National Parks Service to expand the walking trail at Ansted Park. For anyone who has driven by the park or used the existing trail, you can see the trail has not been expanded as yet. We have been in contact with the National Parks Service and the State of Michigan regarding this issue and believe any

problems or questions holding up the issuance of the grant monies have finally been resolved and we will have the "go ahead" to start the project. Because it's so late in the year, we will probably not be able to work on the walking trail until the early spring of 2014.

We have also received a grant from the St. Luke's Lutheran Church Endowment Fund, which partly paid for a new swing set at Indian Creek Park. The equipment has been installed



and the Bedford Township Park Board is thankful for the donation from St. Luke's Lutheran Church.

Currently, the Park Board is applying for a grant from our liability insurance carrier to purchase and install remote security cameras at both Carr's Grove and Parmelee parks. If approved, this grant will allow installation of several security cameras at the parks to help prevent incidents of vandalism, or help us to apprehend any responsible parties who try to continue to damage or destroy our facilities and bring them to justice. Reducing the costs of replacement and repair of park facilities, will allow us the opportunity to add to existing amenities at our parks in the future.

We are also attempting to start a new program in conjunction with the Bedford Public Schools, called "Adopt-A-Park Program". This program will have a team leader for each park (a Bedford teacher or other employee of the school system) who will partner with the park board member who oversees that park, and enlist the help of Bedford Jr. High and High School students to help our board maintain the cleanliness of all of our parks. The concept is similar to Bedford's "Adopt-A-Park Program". If anyone from the public is interested in helping with the program, please contact the Bedford Township Park Board at 734.224.7334.

www.bedfordmi.org

By: Trudy L. Hershberger, Bedford Township Clerk

Visit the Bedford Township Website



The website can be accessed by going to www.bedfordmi.org. We have photos of the township, township parks photos (new ones will be added in the spring when everything is green), approved minutes for the township, planning and BZA meetings, agendas with the entire board packet for Township Board meetings, voter registration forms, forms to volunteer to be on a board or commission, Freedom of Information Act forms, and many others. We have a calendar that will be kept updated about various meeting dates and much, much more. Please check the site out and let us know if you have any ideas for additional information we can add to keep the community updated.

News from the Bedford Township Economic Development Corporation

By: Nancy Tienvieri, Township Trustee & EDC Member

For our residents who are not aware, the Economic Development Corporation (EDC) meets the first Thursday of each month. The purpose and mission of the EDC is as follows:

The Bedford Economic Development Corporation exists to be a catalyst for the retention, expansion, and attraction of business and industry in the township. We will promote developmental strategies that create a sustainable business base, compliment the community's assets, and expand employment opportunities for local residents.

Economic development is necessary for the State of Michigan, the County of Monroe and certainly for Bedford Township. When we build a base for our residents to find jobs, shop for goods, and maintain their homes, we are building a community that provides services to sustain a standard of living that benefits all our residents In addition, spending our hard earned dollars within our state, county, and local community helps everyone in Bedford because many of our neighbors are the owners of the businesses we patronize. So let's build our community and support local businesses.

The EDC has scheduled a breakfast meeting for Wednesday, September 18, 2013 at 7:30 A.M. and an after work meeting on Thursday, September 19 at 4:30 PM, both at the Township Hall in the Board Room on the second floor. We will be having a speaker with an informative message on business development and growth within our community. Invitations are going out to current Bedford Business Association (BBA) members. We also want to broaden that list to any business owner who is interested in economic development and furthering the mission of the EDC, so if you are not a member of the BBA, consider yourself invited. Simply email me your RSVP by September 11, 2013.

Please email me at ntienvieri@bedfordmi.org to have your name and business listed in our database for future notices regarding the EDC. Also, please contact us so you can share your ideas, ask questions, or simply keep in touch with a group that is here to help you and your business thrive. The EDC Mission Statement does not have your name in it - but it has your business interests written all over it!

THE BEDFORD BEAUTIFICATION COMMITTEE

Fall Color

Soft light on red and gold leaves, late blooming flowering plants, colorful berriesautumn in Michigan is gorgeous. When planning your garden and landscaping, think about maximizing the impact as the growing season draws to a close.

Not just for spring, purple is an autumn stand out in the blooms of Asters, Monkshood, Toad Lily and our native Ironweed. The startling amethyst berries of Beautyberry (Callicarpa) attract hungry winged visitors including bluebirds later in the season.

The bright red berries of Flowering Dogwood, American Cranberry Bush (Viburnum triblobum), Chokeberry (Aronia arbutifolia) and Winterberry (Ilex verticillata) also provide a feast for winter birds. Flowering Dogwood also provides red leaf color as



does Oak Leaf Hydrangea, Henry's Garnet or Little Henry Virgina sweetspire, Serviceberry (*Amelanchier*), and Smokebush (*Cotinus coggygria*). Outstanding maples for red leaves include our native Sugar Maple as well as Amur and Japanese maples.

Cheerful Goldenrod flowers do not cause hay fever symptoms since they are bee pollinated unlike the real culprit, the nondescript flowers of wind pollinated ragweed. Goldenrod pairs well with the yellow leaves of our native Witch Hazel and Sassafras trees.

News From The Assessing Department

By: Christopher Renius, MAAO, MCPPE • Bedford Township Assessor

On December 27, 2012, Governor Richard Snyder signed Public Act 497 of 2012 into law. This Act indicates that beginning December 31, 2013, a transfer of residential real property is not a transfer of ownership if the transferee is related to the transferor by blood or affinity to the first degree and the use of the residential real property does not change following the transfer of ownership. Residential real property is defined as real property classified as residential real under MCL 211.34c.

The definition of residential real property contained in MCL 211.34c is:

- (i) Platted or unplatted parcels, with or without buildings, and condominium apartments located within or outside a village or city, which are used for, or probably will be used for, residential purposes.
- (ii) Parcels that are used for, or probably will be used for, recreational purposes, such as lake lots and hunting lands, located in an area used predominantly for recreational purposes.
- (iii) For taxes levied <u>after</u> December 31, 2002, a home, cottage, or cabin on leased land, and a mobile home that would be assessable as real property under section 2a except that the land on which it is located is not assessable because the land is exempt.
 - Transferee is defined as the person to whom the conveyance is made.
 - Transferor is defined as one who conveys a title, right or interest in property.

Affinity to the first degree includes the following relationships: spouse, father or mother, father or mother

of the spouse, son or daughter, including adopted children and son or daughter of the spouse.

What this Act is allowing for is residentially used properties, whether they are someone's Principal Residence or not, to pass from blood relative to blood relative, as defined above, without the "uncapping" of the



taxable value taking place so long as the use of the property does not change after the conveyance. To property notify the Township Assessing department that a conveyance meets the above indicated exemption, a Property Transfer Affidavit (form L-4260) would need to be completed and filed with the Township Assessing Department with the proper exemption indicated, along with a statement that the transferee will not change the use of the property and will notify the assessor should the use change.

Again, this act allows for this exemption to take place on transfers that take place ON OR AFTER DECEMBER 31, 2013. This act does not provide for any retroactivity on transfers that meet the above requirements that take place prior to this date.

Contact Your Trustee

The Township Trustees have individual email accounts for better communication with Bedford Township residents. The full-time Township officials have always had their own separate emails for residents to contact from the web site, or through their email. Now the Trustees also can be contacted through email. Their email addresses are:

If you have questions, comments, concerns, or just want to stay in touch feel free to send your email to any one or all of the above addresses. ■

CHILDREN & Fire BEDFORD FIRE DEPARTMENT UPDATE

By: James Neorr, Interim Bedford Township Fire Chief

Children and fire can be a deadly combination. If a child is misusing fire, educate them on the proper uses of fire and the dangers of unsafe fire-related activities.

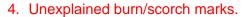
The following are Safety Tips:

- 1. All adults in the child's life need to take an active role in eliminating access to ignition (fire) sources.
- 2. Set a good example by using matches, lighters, and other fire sources in a safe and careful manner.
- 3. Praise a child for showing responsible behavior and respect for fire.
- 4. Calmly but firmly explain that matches and lighters are tools for adults only.
- 5. Inspect the home for ignition sources a child could access (e.g. candles, BBQ gill lighters, fireworks) and secure or remove them.
- 6. If a child has been misusing fire, adults need to regularly search for hidden matches or lighters.

Signs A Child Is Misusing Fire:

1. Lighters, matches, or fireworks in a child's room, pockets, or belongings

- 2. Lighters, matches, aerosol sprays, fireworks, or flammable liquids in the
 - home come up missing and/or are found in a different location than where an adult last left them.
- Discarded lighters or matches in the garbage or yard.



- 5. Smell of accelerants on a youth's clothing or in an area they have been playing
- 6. Unusual items that maybe used in fires found in a child's room or around areas of the home/yard.
- 7. Videos or pictures of fire misuse on the youth's cell phone, computer or online social media and video accounts. ■

This Information Compliments of the University of Michigan Trauma Burn Center

We're at **Your** Service!

Periodically, it's good to remind ourselves, as well as all township residents, that the employees at Bedford Township Hall work for **YOU**. That's right, we work for you. Our goal is to provide excellent customer service to everyone we greet at the counters or talk to on the telephone. That doesn't always mean we can always give you an answer that you're happy with, it simply means we will try to give you the correct answer or give you the best service in the quickest time possible, with a smile. If you feel you have not received excellent customer service during your visit to the township office, please ask to speak to one of your elected representatives. We are more than willing to respond to any complaints or concerns regarding the service we provide. Please feel free to contact us in person or by telephone at **734.847.6791**.





Bedford TownshipP. O. Box H • 8100 Jackman Road
Temperance, Michigan 48182



POSTAL CUSTOMER BEDFORD TOWNSHIP

BEDFORD TOWNSHIP BOARDS AND COMMISSIONS 2013 SCHEDULE OF MEETINGS

Bedford Township Board	Meets 1 st and 3 rd Tuesday of each month Meets 2 rd Thursday of each month
Beautification Committee	
Board of Review	
Board of Zoning Appeals	
Cablevision Committee	Meets 1st Monday of each month Meets as needed
Economic Development Corporation	
Fire Commission	
Bedford Library Board	Meets 4th Monday of each month
Housing Commission	Meets 3 rd Wednesday of each month at 6:00 p.m. • Ivor Lindsay • 8745 Lewis Avenue
Planning Commission	
Park Commission	
Downtown Development Authority	
Temperance Action Committee (TAC)	
Lambertville Pride Committee	
Samaria Heritage Committee	Meets 2 nd Tuesday of each month • Samaria Hall (Park) at 6:30 p.m.

- All meeting times are at 7:00 p.m. unless otherwise stated.
- <u>All</u> meetings are held in compliance with the **Open Meetings Act of 1976**. Meetings are normally held at the **Bedford Township Hall 8100 Jackman Road Temperance, MI 48182** unless otherwise indicated. Meetings are subject to change of date, time and place, pending notification.
- The Library Advisory Board meetings are held at the Bedford Township Branch Monroe County Library System 8575 Jackman Road Temperance, MI 48182.
- Bedford Township Housing Commission meetings are held at the offices of the Ivor J. Lindsay Senior Housing Complex 8745 Lewis Avenue Temperance, MI 48182.
- The **Township of Bedford** will provide necessary and reasonable auxiliary aids and services for individuals with disabilities attending Township meetings upon one week's notice to the Township of Bedford. Individuals with disabilities requiring auxiliary aids or services should contact the Township of Bedford in writing. *Please address all correspondence to:* **Greg W. Stewart, Supervisor 8100 Jackman Road P. O. Box H Temperance, MI 48182.** You may also contact **Supervisor, Greg W. Stewart** by calling **(734) 847-6791, ext.7322**.

Township Board Meetings are broadcast on Buckeye Cable Channel 11 or 7 with a box the Wednesday after the meeting at 9:00 a.m. and the following Thursday at 7:00 p.m.